REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 24-26 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and is supported by Fig. 4(g) of the present application, for example. Claim 9 has been amended as supported by Figs. 9(a)-9(f), for example. Claims 4, 7, 8, 11 and 13-15 have been amended to address matters of form. Claims 3 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New independent claim 24 has been added including the subject matter of cancelled claim 12 and is supported by Fig. 15(e) of the present application, for example. New dependent claim 25 has been added as supported by Fig. 3(a) of the present application, for example. Claim 26 has been added as supported by Fig. 15(a) of the present application, for example.

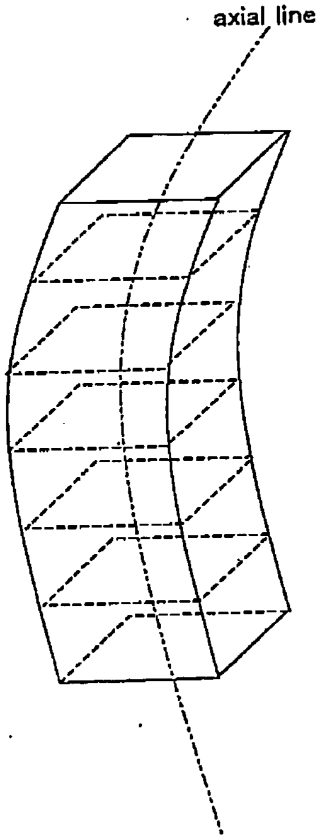
In addition to the above, claims 16 and 20-23 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and thus have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants presently intend to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims, and thus reserve the right under 35 USC §121.

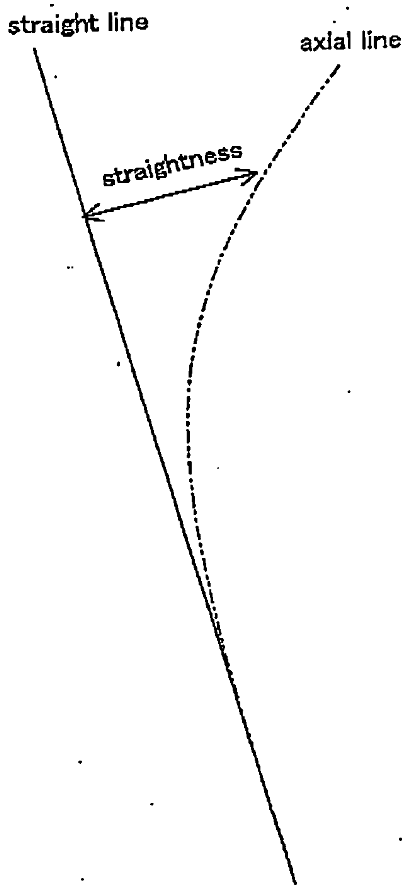
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 17-19 are allowed and claims 8-10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form in compliance with §112, second paragraph. For the reasons explained below, however, independent claims 1 and 24 are believed to be allowable over the applied art.

1. The objection to claim 9 is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claim submitted above.

2. Claim 7 was rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

An axial line, as defined in paragraph [0029] of the present application, is a line connecting the center of a sectional contour line to another in transverse surfaces of objects designated as cylindrical or rectangular parallelepiped members in linear shapes (ex: pillar shaped). Applicants respectfully submit the following drawing to further illustrate the term "axial line," as it is used in claim 7:





For the above stated reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the term "axial line" is well defined and is not indefinite under §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 12-14 were rejected under §102(b) over Kogyo. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended and new claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites, among other things, a less-dust-generative piezoelectric/electrostrictive device comprising a plurality of pillar shaped piezoelectric/electrostrictive elements which are formed integrally with the ceramic substrate and which extend upwardly from the ceramic substrate in a matrix form.

Kogyo discloses, in Fig. 1, a piezoelectric/electrostrictive (P/E) device having a plurality of wall-shaped P/E elements aligned substantially parallel to each other. The individual wall-shaped elements of Kogyo are not pillar-shaped, as shown in Fig. 3(g) of the present application, for example. Additionally, the wall-shaped P/E elements of Kogyo are arranged in a single row rather than being arrayed in matrix form, as shown in Fig. 3(g) of the present application, for example. Therefore, Kogyo fails to disclose a P/E device comprising a plurality of P/E elements which are formed integrally with the ceramic substrate and which extend upwardly from the ceramic substrate in a matrix form, as recited in claim 1. Since claim 7 depends directly from claim 1, claim 7 is also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

New claim 24 recites, among other things, a less-dust-generative piezoelectric/electrostrictive device comprising a cell including the ceramic substrate, one piezoelectric/electrostrictive element, another piezoelectric/electrostrictive element disposed adjacent to the one piezoelectric/electrostrictive element, and a lid section connecting the one piezoelectric/electrostrictive element to the other piezoelectric/electrostrictive element. The side surfaces of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive device on which the electrodes are formed are fired, but unprocessed.

Kogyo discloses, in Fig. 1, a P/E device having a plurality of wall-shaped P/E elements extending upward from a base. The top portions of the P/E elements (the sides opposite the base) are separated by the slots 2 and are enclosed by a cover plate 4 that is added afterward. Furthermore, the cover plate encloses the P/E device with a single nozzle plate 5 and a reservoir 7 as opposed to the lid 167 of the present application that is fired concurrently with the device attaching two P/E elements to form a cell, as shown in Fig. 15(e). Therefore, Kogyo fails to disclose a P/E device comprising a cell including the ceramic substrate, one P/E element, another P/E element disposed adjacent to the one P/E element, and a lid section connecting the one P/E element to the other P/E element, wherein the side surfaces of the P/E device on which the electrodes are formed are fired, but unprocessed, as recited in claim 24. Since claims 13 and 14 depend directly from claim 24, claims 13 and 14 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

4. Claims 2, 11 and 15 were rejected under §103(a) over Chae in view of Kogyo. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claims 1 and 24 from Kogyo. Since Chae does not overcome the deficiencies of Kogyo, and since claims 2 and 11 depend directly from claim 1 and claim 15 depends directly from claim 24, claims 2, 11 and 15 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

5. Claims 4-6 were rejected under §103(a) over Kogyo. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claim 1 from Kogyo. Since

claims 4-6 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

January 6, 2006
Date

Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/TE/tlp

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320